

GRIST FROM THE MILL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

COLVIN RUN MILL
HISTORIC SITE

January 2009



Looking Back — Looking Ahead

It's January and we are mid-way through fiscal year 2009. Let's emulate Janus by looking back at what we've accomplished and forward to some of what lies ahead.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Total attendance: **10,470**
School field trips: **2,000**
Scouts: **190**
Tour takers: **820**
Special programs: **5,100**
Walk-ins: **2,300**

Gross revenue: **\$50,170**

Volunteer hours: **3,400**

The site's outdated master plan was revised and approved in September. Read more about it on pages 2 & 3.

Fairfax County voters passed the latest park bond in November which included funds for the design phase of a future site visitor center.

CHALLENGES:

☞ We have not been able to replace Mary Allen (altho' she is returning in a new role, see page 6). The paid staff shortage will continue for the foreseeable future and has already caused us to turn away some reservations for future programs.

☞ With fewer paid staff, we will limit "drop-in" programs and focus on reservation programs to use both paid and volunteer staff more effectively.

☞ January 2 will be a county-wide paid staff furlough day. The site will be closed; all staff will be on unpaid leave.

☞ Dawn Kehrer is continuing work on implementing the mill furnishings plan. So far, she has compiled a list of recommended furnishings for the 1st floor and basement. Next, she will tackle research to identify and locate the items we need.

☞ We will begin the two-year process for American Association of Museums (AAM) re-accreditation due in 2010. Nation-wide, only 8% of historic sites are AAM accredited, and back in the 1970s, we were the first! Every ten years we join Historic Sully and Green Spring Gardens Park to conduct a self-study and host a panel of peer reviewers.

☞ Looking ahead to warmer weather, the spring school program calendar is already full, and we can be sure of many more scout troops, tour takers, and weekend program participants.

It's a team effort to provide the quality and level of services our visitors have come to expect and deserve. Thanks to all of you, the "same old grind" is something very special here at Colvin Run Mill.

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2008 HOLIDAY PROGRAM STATS

Children's Shopping

500 shoppers
\$11,713 store sales
442 volunteer hours

Country Christmas

275 revelers
\$1,952 revenue
200 volunteer hours

Model Train Display

650 train enthusiasts
\$1,430 store sales
70 volunteer hours

We couldn't have
done it without
YOU!
THANKS!

The site will be **closed** Thursday, January 1, and Friday, January 2.

We will open again on Saturday, January 3.

Winter hours: 11am—4pm. Last tour begins at 3pm.





My, How We've Grown!

Thanks to Andy Galusba, Park Planning & Development Division, for contributing to this article.

On September 24, 2008, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Board approved the Master Plan Revision for Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, culminating the process begun in February. An immediate change is that 29 acres of stream valley parkland on the south side of Route 7 have been incorporated into the historic site, increasing it from 38 to 67 acres.

Here's how the master plan revisions came

about and what they mean for the future.

Background

The purpose of the new master plan is to create a long-range vision for the site that will serve as a decision-making tool for all future planning.

The first master plan for the site's original parcel was created in 1973 and consisted of a single graphic with no accompanying text. Over the years, adjacent parcels of land have been added to the site, visitation has grown, visitor expectations have changed, modern technology has stressed the miller's house office space

and programming demands have exceeded the barn's capacity. In 2008, a team of Park Authority staff (including planners, site staff, resource management and operations personnel) began to develop a new master plan to address these changes.

Process

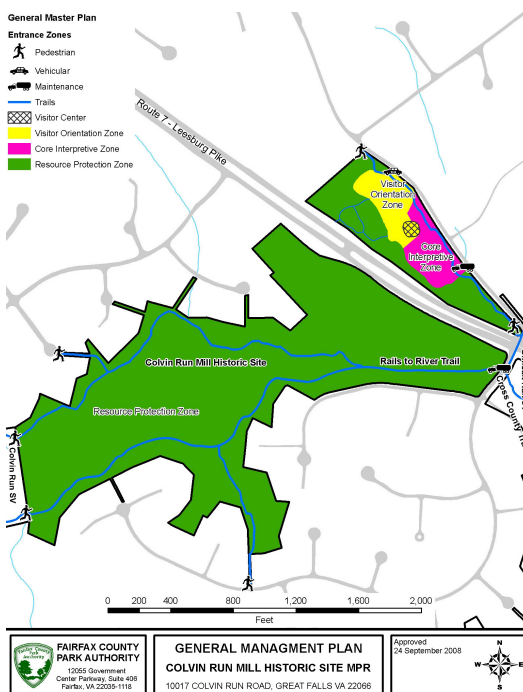
The team reviewed the site's existing facilities, purpose, goals, current uses, visitor experience and classification as a resource-based park. They also considered community needs, the site's context in the surrounding neighborhood and its relation to other parks in the FCPA system.

Next, the team held a series of public information meetings to present their findings and gather input from the local community. Staff from the Park Planning and Development Division then created a draft Master Plan Revision which they presented for public review in June. Staff continued to receive public input throughout the summer and revised the draft plan.

2008 Master Plan Revision Elements

- Defined Entrance Zones
- Interpretive & Directional Signs
- Connection to the Cross County Trail
- Parking Lot Updated & Lighted
- Parking Area along Carper's Farm Way
- Trash Cans
- Benches
- Improving Visitor Accessibility
- Barn Renovated Into Visitor Center with:
 - Improved Exhibit
 - Demonstration
 - Office Space
 - Restrooms
 - Support Facilities
- Foot Bridge over Mill Race near Pond
- Site Designated As Resource Protection Zone
- Ongoing Archaeological Research
- Miller's House Restored
- Reconstruction of:
 - Garden
 - Privy
 - Mill Wright / Blacksmith Shop

Removed By 2008 Master Plan Revision
Unused Stage Platform along Colvin Run Road





Master Plan Revisions, cont'd.

In September, they presented the final draft to the FCPA Board, which approved the Master Plan Revision.

The Plan

The revised master plan provides a balance between resource protection and interpretation. It consists of three sections:

Background/ Existing Conditions:

provides background information and establishes the park purpose and classification.

General Management Plan (GMP):

serves as a guide for future site development and describes how best to protect resources while providing quality visitor experiences. It identifies "management zones," and is meant to be flexible to accommodate changing visitor needs. The GMP should be updated periodically to reflect changes in and around the site.

Conceptual Development Plan: describes the planned site elements, identifies design concerns and illustrates the general location of recommended facilities.

Now What?

The revision approval is great news for the site and the new plan provides excellent guidance for the future. But there are some *caveats* to keep in mind. Although site planning is now complete, no determination has been made as to when improvements will be implemented. And while the current park bond includes funding for the design of a new visitor center, neither the bond nor the Park Authority's Park Planning and Development Work Program includes any construction funding.

The Park Authority Board determines design, construction timing and funding through adoption of the Capital Improvement Program. In some cases, money proffered from other developments may be available to provide site improvements.

Next Steps

In November, site manager Mike Henry and FOCRM members Bob Lundegard and Nick Yannarell met with FCPA planning staff to discuss where we go

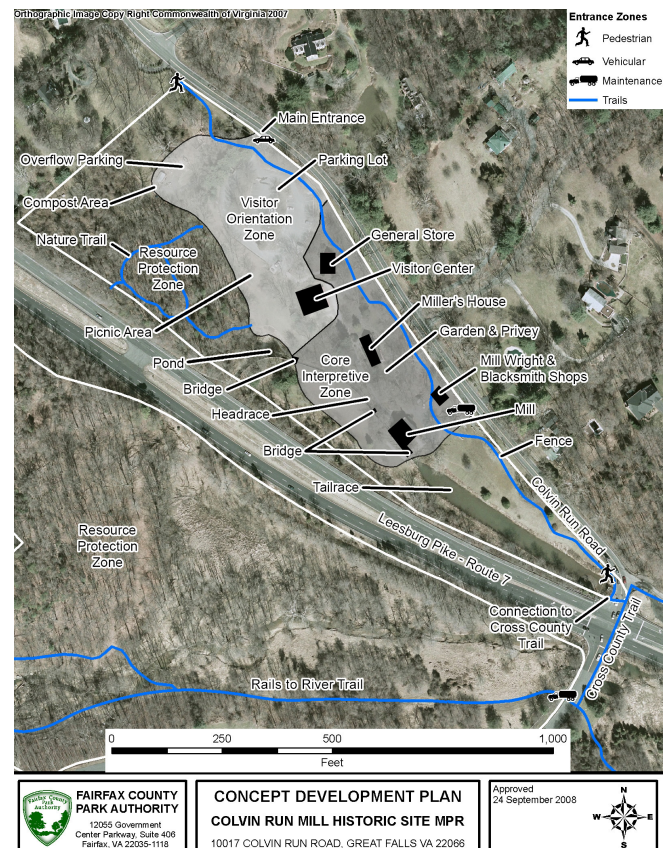
from here. The Resource Management Division will use bond funds for a cultural landscape report which may begin as early as January 2009. When that report is complete, the design phase of the proposed new visitor center can proceed.

To read the complete master plan revision go to:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/colvinrunmill.htm

To learn how master plans are created go to:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/





January Birthdays

2 — Mike Moran celebrates every day, feeling blessed to be alive and have so many friends and family members. As a special birthday celebration, his wife Diane is taking him to see the Capitol Steps.

4 — Rich Thorpe has no special birthday plans. He's still recovering from the holidays.



photo by Dawn Kehrer

On the Old Road to the West with Washington

Arti-FACTs

By Dawn Kehrer

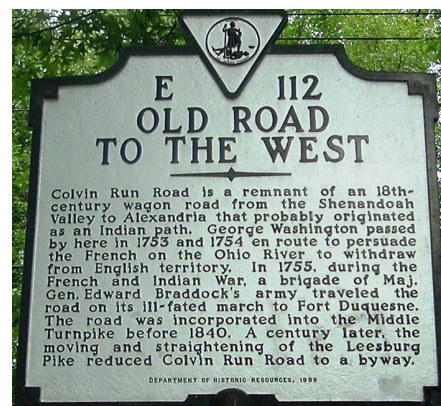
Have you read the Virginia historical highway marker in the Colvin Run Mill parking lot? Among other things, it says that "George Washington passed by here in 1753 and 1754 en route to persuade the French on the Ohio River to withdraw from English territory," and that a brigade of Major General Edward Braddock's army traveled on what is now Colvin Run Road on its march to Fort Duquesne in 1755, during the French and Indian War.

Major George Washington was only 21 years old in 1753 when Virginia Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie sent him more than 500 miles, from Williamsburg to the garrison at the French Fort Le

Boeuf (now Waterford, PA), to complain of French encroachments and require their peaceable departure. Washington left Williamsburg in October 1753 and arrived in western Pennsylvania on December 11.

Our sign was sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission and erected in 1999 by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. There are more than 2,200 highway markers throughout the state that commemorate people, places or events of regional, state or national significance.

Virginia's marker program is one of the oldest in the nation. In 1927, the first highway markers were erected along U.S. Route 1



between Mt. Vernon and Richmond. Except for a short period during World War II, the commonwealth has continually erected new markers for 80 years.

Would you like to sponsor a new highway marker? Individuals and groups can apply to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and must be willing to pay \$1,350 to manufacture their marker. For more information about highway markers, go to www.dhr.virginia.gov and click on "Highway Markers."



SMALL MUSEUM
ASSOCIATION
2009 CONFERENCE

Marking 25 years of "small museums, working together" this year's conference will give attendees the latest tools to reach the audiences they serve.

For more information and to register go to smallmuseum.org

SEE YOU AT THE BEACH!
FEBRUARY 22-24
OCEAN CITY, MD



Readers' Survey Results

by *Ann Korzeniewski, ed.*

"Thanks!," everyone who filled out a *Grist From the Mill* Readers' Survey.

We're a mixed (dare I say "purple"?) bunch here — half the readers ignore the items that the other half read thoroughly every month.

To keep everyone's attention, I'll try to mix it up throughout the year. Some

of your favorites may appear quarterly while I use the space for more "big picture" news and history articles. For starters, I'm grateful to Andy Galusha from FCPA's Planning & Development Division for his work on the master plan article in this issue.

You're all interested in each other, so I will keep focusing on the dedicated, talented and generous

folks who make the mill a great place to visit and work.

Guest contributors are always welcome. If you have personal milestones, ideas or articles pertinent to what we do here, or photos to share (like Mike Toms' beautiful wintry scenes this month) do not hesitate to send them my way.

NEXT MONTH:

Maple Syrup Boil-Downs

Sundays, February 8 & 15
noon-2pm, FREE

Mason Maddox will demonstrate sugaring. Taste delicious maple syrup on fresh-baked Colvin Run Mill cornbread.

OUTDOORS!

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER



Photo by CRM volunteer Mike Toms



Don't throw those holiday cards away!

Bring them to the site office & Jennifer Blackwood will recycle them for next year's craft projects.

New Board for Friends of Colvin Run Mill

The **Friends of Colvin Run Mill** (FOCRM) held an election in November and ushered in a new slate of board members. The local administration in Great Falls mirrors the national one in Washington — a newcomer joins the ranks with some familiar faces returning in new roles.



Mary Allen returns to the mill in a new role — FOCRM **president**. She

brings many years' experience with site operations.

Charles Leik will join the board as **vice president**. Active in the local community, he learned about FOCRM while working with the Great Falls Citizens' Association.

Fran DiLorenzo will serve as **secretary**. She brings strong administrative skills honed (at least partially) while volunteering in the site office.

Kitty O'Hara will keep track of the group's finances as **treasurer**. A veteran volunteer in the General Store, she has long been entrusted with the site's daily revenue.

We extend our sincere thanks to long-time board members **Bob Lundegard**, **Joe Pruden** and **Nick Yannarell** who are stepping down from the board as their terms expire after years of service to FOCRM and the site.





COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

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FOR REASONABLE ADA
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A PUBLICATION OF
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AND
COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm



Mike Toms, Colvin Run Mill volunteer



The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain and interpret its historic buildings and collections for the enrichment of Fairfax County residents and visitors as they relate to the themes of technology and community in 19th century rural northern Virginia.

Manager: Mike Henry

Assistant Manager/Newsletter Editor: Ann Korzeniewski

Miller: Mason Maddox

Historic Collections Coordinator: Dawn Kehrer

Programs, Volunteer Scheduling & Sales: Jennifer Blackwood

Jills of All Trades: Crystal Allison & Pam Gennari